

Ebert Accepts The Presidency; Warns Allies

Again Declares New Germany Will Resist Unless Peace Is Based Upon the Right

Vast Throng in Theatre

Woman Socialist Cause of Only Discard; Armistice Terms Are Denounced

WEIMAR, Feb. 12. (By The Associated Press.)—Friedrich Ebert, President of Germany, in his speech accepting the Presidency said: "I will administer my office not as the leader of a single party, but I belong to the Socialist party and cannot forget my origin and training. The privileges of birth already have been eliminated from politics and are being eliminated from social life. "We shall combat domination by force to the utmost, from whatever direction it may come. We wish to found our state only on the basis of right and on our freedom to shape our destinies at home and abroad. However, harsh may be the lot threatening the German people, we do not despair of Germany's vital forces."

Bells Announce Election
Pealing church bells announced to the people of Weimar at 4:15 o'clock this afternoon that the German folk, for the first time in history, had chosen the head of their own state.

Chancellor Ebert, former saddler and Socialist leader, appeared before the theatre twenty minutes later and received as President of Germany those plaudits formerly marking the appearance of the monarch who once stigmatized the party to which President Ebert belongs as being made up of men unworthy to bear the name of German.

Notwithstanding the certainty of Ebert's election, the theatre was crowded beyond anything previously seen since the opening of the National Assembly. The gallery resembled the Reichstag in the old days, with men and women in holiday attire jammed in every available inch of space. The boxes and balconies were crowded to their utmost capacity.

Vote Causes Confusion
A vote by ballot caused confusion as the delegates struggled along the narrow aisle. The speaker, standing outside during the session, waiting patiently in the cold for a chance to see the new President when he left the building, which he did immediately after a brief speech of acceptance. He implicitly acknowledged the ovation given him.

The vote against him probably came from the Social Democratic block and a few of the old National Liberals, while the Independent Socialists and some others signified a lesser degree of disapproval by casting blank ballots. Announcements of the result were made by the speaker, who brought a laugh from the entire house, which also laughed on the second day of the session. The vote for Philipp Scheidemann likewise caused mirth.

The National Assembly adjourned until Thursday.

50,000 German Troops Are Standing Guard Over National Assembly

By Joseph Saxe

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WEIMAR, Germany, Feb. 12.—The delightful little town of Weimar, with its old-fashioned buildings, archways, courtyards and so many things to remind one of the good old time when Germany was really a people of poets and philosophers, is in a state of flutter and agitation during the National Assembly. Almost every stone in this place has some association with Goethe, Schiller and other great minds of the nineteenth century of German culture that flourished under the liberal protection of the grand dukes. Summoning the National Assembly to such a small place, far away from Berlin, is anything but heroic, but the efforts which are being made to insure the proper accommodation and facilities for the invading hosts of government officials and members of the National Assembly and press certainly are heroic.

But there was also plenty to call to mind the state of unsettlement of the civil commission in which Germany lives today. We met long troop trains crammed with soldiers, apparently perfectly equipped for war, at several places within twenty or thirty miles of Weimar. The town itself is, likewise, full of artillery and other instruments of war. I am told that no fewer than 50,000 troops are now concentrated in and around Weimar. One wonders what menace the National Assembly might be expected with so formidable a display of force.

U. S. Accepts Japanese Traffic Plan in Siberia

Russian To Be Chairman of Inter-Allied Committee on Restoration

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Acting Secretary Polk announced that the United States now had accepted formally the proposal of the Japanese government in regard to plans for the restoration of railway traffic in Siberia. "The purpose of the agreement," Mr. Polk's statement said, "is to assist the Russians in Siberia in regaining their normal condition of life, and has been reached upon a definite understanding that the railways are to be operated for the interests of the people of Siberia. The United States and Japan have expressly voiced their disinterested purpose not to infringe on any existing right either of Russia, or where the Chinese Eastern railway is concerned, of China."

Germany's New Government Appears Moderate in Color

Cabinet an Interparty Compromise: No Radical Change in Foreign Policy Seen Under Erzberger

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The composition of the new German republican government, with Friedrich Ebert as President and Philipp Scheidemann as Chancellor or Prime Minister, represents an inter-party compromise, none of the great parties having secured a majority of the National Assembly.

The color of the government is, on the whole, moderate; the Majority Socialists have half of the seats, with Matthias Erzberger representing the Centrum and Count Brockdorff-Rantzau the People's party. The inclusion of the latter as Foreign Minister seems to indicate that in the field of foreign policy at least no radical changes are in sight and that the junker and upper bourgeois elements also will have a voice in shaping the course of the new Germany toward the Allies.

A curious feature is that so far the cables make no mention of any representative in the Cabinet of the German Democratic party, the bourgeois radical group, whose strength in the Assembly about equals that of the Centrum.

The election of Friedrich Ebert as first President of the German Republic came rather as a surprise, his name not having occurred among the three or four "Presidential possibilities" indicated in the dispatches. Son of a Heidelberg tailor, Ebert, after leaving grade school, started out in life as apprentice in a saddle and harness maker's shop. Later he entered journalism and was editor of a Socialist newspaper in Bremen, was active in the trade union movement and became in 1905 member of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic party. In 1912 he was elected to the Reichstag, and a year later was chosen president of the party. Since the outbreak of the war he sided with the Majority Socialists, or Scheidemann faction, but was comparatively little known outside of Germany.

On November 9 last he succeeded Prince Max of Baden as the first Socialist Chancellor of the empire, his appointment being announced simultaneously with the resignation of the Kaiser.

On December 6 he was acclaimed President of the republic by a crowd of revolutionary soldiers, who marched before the Chancellor's palace, but he refused to treat this "election" seriously and emphasized all the time the necessity of maintaining order and following legal procedure.

Wavered at First
In his difficulties with the Independent Socialists and the Spartacists he first showed himself wavering, but decided at last to crush out the rebellion ruthlessly. He expressed himself repeatedly in favor of general socialization of the means of production, always insisting, however, on political and constitutional methods. He is now forty-eight.

The new Chancellor, Philipp Scheidemann, has acquired world-wide fame since August, 1914, as leader of the pro-war, pro-Kaiser wing of German social democracy, so vehemently denounced by Liebknecht and the Independent Socialists. He was born in Cassel in 1865, had a high school education and became a printer, later a journalist. Since 1903

Chinese Parliament Members Demand Treaty Information

Delegates Ready to Submit All Secret Agreements With Japan to "Big Five"; Students Support Stand

PARIS, Feb. 12. (By The Associated Press.)—The Chinese delegation to the peace conference has been advised that there have been many interpretations in the Chinese Parliament from members representing both the northern and southern provinces, demanding fuller information concerning Japanese and Chinese relations, as laid before the conference. The Chinese delegates say that they are ready to submit all secret agreements with Japan to the council of the five great powers, which probably will consider the matter at the end of the present week.

In addition to the secret agreement between Japan and China relating to Shantung Province and Tsing-Tao, the secret agreements between Japan and other powers made since the beginning of the war and before China became belligerent have been asked for by the big five council.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Baron Nobukuni Makino, head of the Japanese delegation at the peace conference, has been instructed to disclose all the unpublished treaties between China and Japan, says a Reuter dispatch from Tokyo today.

TOKIO, Feb. 10. (By The Associated Press.)—Kijuro Shidehara, Vice-Foreign Minister of Japan, speaking today regarding the publication of Chinese treaties with Japan, said that the latter had "simply called to China's attention the established procedure, according to which neither government has a right to publish confidential correspondence without previously consulting the other."

Shidehara spoke for Viscount Uchida, Foreign Minister, who is suffering from pneumonia. "Japan has no intention to interfere with any demands or contentions which the Chinese prefer to present to the peace conference," he said. "Accordingly, Peking and Paris reports to the contrary are absolutely untrue."

Herron, at Berne, Awaits Russian Parley Orders

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BERNE, Feb. 12.—Professor George D. Herron, one of the American delegates to the Prinkipo conference, is awaiting here his final instructions before proceeding to Constantinople. The

British Miners Reject Offer To End Dispute

Serious Industrial Situation Feared if Union Decides to Strike for Short Day

Government Asks Inquiry

Suggests a Slight Increase in Wages and Conference on the Other Demands

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain at a meeting at Southport today decided against acceptance of the terms offered by the government for a settlement of the demands made by the federation.

The federation, which has 800,000 members, wants a six-hour day and a 30 per cent increase in wages. When the conference met this morning President Smillie announced that the committee having the matter in charge had decided against acceptance of the government's terms. The terms were discussed by the whole conference this afternoon, after which it was voted to reject them. The following resolution was adopted:

"We reject the terms offered by the government as not being in reply to our demands and we remit to the executive committee the duty of laying before the conference a proposal as to what should be the next step to press our demands."

The decision of the conference will, if followed by a strike, which seems likely with the miners in their present mood, create an extremely serious industrial situation, as the coal shortage is already embarrassing, not only to manufacturers but to domestic consumers.

Seek to Absorb Labor

The miners' demands were elaborated last year, but were held over pending the conclusion of hostilities in consideration of the national emergency.

While the first object of the miners is to absorb surplus labor consequent to the mobilization, there is declared to be behind the movement a determination on the part of the miners permanently to nationalize the industry.

The government in its reply to the demands of the miners said regarding the question of a six-hour day that, while it sympathized with the desire of the workers for an improved standard of life, it must, in considering the increases in the cost of production in trade, the question of which form a staple of other occupations, think also of the consequences upon the general trade situation.

The government proposed a strong representative committee on which the miners would be represented, to inquire into this question and also into the cost of production and distribution of the products of which form a staple of other occupations, think also of the consequences upon the general trade situation.

Offer Slight Increase

In regard to the demand for increased wages, the government said it was willing to add a shilling a day to the present war bonus, which is equal to the rise in prices since January, 1918, and to refer other demands in connection with wages to the representative committee.

Lloyd George Labor Programme Fails to Suit British Unions

LONDON, Feb. 12.—While the press generally approves Premier Lloyd George's labor programme, it fails to satisfy the Parliamentary Labor party, which has prepared an amendment to the reply to the speech from the throne, regretting the absence of definite proposals dealing with "the present cases of industrial unrest and for securing, as regards wages and working hours, conditions of labor which will establish a higher standard of life and social well-being for the people."

Crisis Is Reached

The labor situation reached a crisis today in differences between the government and three great unions, representing nearly 1,500,000 workers, the result of whose demands is awaited with keen interest by the entire labor world. The unions are the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, membership 800,000; National Union of Railwaymen, membership 400,000, and the National Transport Workers' Federation, membership 250,000. The unions are acting together, and it is believed

they have agreed on joint action if dissatisfied with the result of the conferences. The railway men's demands include a forty-eight hour week and control of railways by representatives of the managements and workers. The latter clause is considered a step toward nationalization, but an alternative has been prepared in the form of a mission of labor delegates and boards of directors.

Higher Wages Asked

The transport workers demand a forty-eight hour week and a wage advance of 20 per cent. While the Northcliffe newspapers generally approve the Lloyd George programme, the Premier is openly attacked by the viscount in a new weekly published to-day. The attack is in an article sent to the publication by Viscount Northcliffe, who is in Southern France. Mr. Lloyd George is said to be a "political chameleon," who lacks force to compel the Tories and their allies in Parliament to accept needed reforms. The Premier is accused of waiting for the newspapers to tell him what to do.

Jugo-Slav-German Truce Arranged by American Mission

Lieut.-Col. Sherman Myles Is Successful in Preventing Further Outbreaks in Carinthia Province

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BERNE, Feb. 12.—On the authority of the Vienna Foreign Office it is stated that the American mission headed by Lieutenant Colonel Sherman Myles has succeeded temporarily in stopping further hostilities between the Germans and Jugo-Slavs in the German-Austrian province of Carinthia. During the first part of January a large part of Carinthia was occupied by Jugo-Slav troops to the indignation of the natives, both German and Slovene.

German and Slovene peasants took arms and shot at the Jugo-Slavs. The Jugo-Slavs then proposed an armistice. Negotiations took place between January 16 and January 22, but were without result and further hostilities seemed unavoidable.

At this critical moment Colonel Myles declared himself ready to fix a line of demarcation for them on the understanding that they would renounce acts of violence until a definite settlement of the question by the Peace Conference.

This proposal was accepted, in consequence of which the American mission under Colonel Myles travelled through all the contested part of Carinthia by motor cars, mountain sledges and afoot.

Ask Release of War Prisoners

BERNE, Feb. 12.—An international women's conference, at which delegates from the Entente countries and Germany were present, today passed a resolution demanding that all war prisoners and interned persons be released. It was decided by the conference to send a delegation to President Wilson to promise him support for his peace programme and also to request the elimination of militaristic tendencies in school teaching.

Budapest Strike Resumed

BASEL, Feb. 12.—The general strike has been resumed in Budapest, according to dispatches received here. Wittich, the leader of the Hungarian Socialists, is added, has been arrested at Pressburg.

Jellicoe Tells of Jutland Sea Fight; Lauds Grand Fleet

Former British Commander Says England Did Not Have Supposed Superiority When War Started

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The dangers to which the British Grand Fleet, short of cruisers, destroyers and with defenceless bases, was exposed during the first two and a half years of the war owing to the German use of submarines, mines and torpedoes are described in a book written by Admiral Viscount Jellicoe, former commander of the fleet and published to-day, covering the activities of 1914-18.

Admiral Jellicoe points out that the German high seas fleet possessed eighty-eight destroyers, compared with forty-two for the Grand Fleet, and reveals that owing to the submarine menace the Grand Fleet in the fall of 1914 moved from Lough Swilly and returned to the North Sea only when the anchorage in Scapa Flow became reasonably safe.

Look No Chances

One-third of the admiral's book is devoted to the Battle of Jutland. In summing up the lessons of the battle Admiral Jellicoe dwells upon "the danger involved in leaving too much to chance in fleet action, because our fleet was in the event of disaster, or even should its margin of superiority be eliminated, the admiral continues.

"When the battle fleets approached there was a difference of reckoning between the British battle fleet and the battle-cruiser squadrons, due to the cruisers having been engaged for several hours and having repeatedly altered their course. Hence, instead of being encountered right ahead the enemy appeared on the starboard bow."

Instant action was necessary, the admiral says, and he decided to deploy on the port wing division, thus compelling the Germans to turn off to starboard to avoid being crossed. This manoeuvre, which has been described masterly by reviewers, threw the enemy into complete confusion. The German commander in chief realized that his only hope lay in escape, and profited by his superiority in torpedo craft, low visibility, the approach of darkness and the proximity of his bases and mine fields.

"The enemy at this period fired hundreds of torpedoes, as German officers have since stated," Admiral Jellicoe continues, "and though the Germans were in the gravest peril, the position of the Grand Fleet itself was menaced by determined torpedo attacks in thick weather."

"But the British fleet by turning its battle line four times during the action," the admiral says, "got clear of the torpedoes which were racing toward the British ships and defeated the tactics upon which the Germans based their hopes." Admiral Jellicoe pays tribute to the skill of his captains in turning their ships and avoiding torpedoes and collisions while keeping their positions.

After estimating the relative strengths of the two fleets early in the war, Admiral Jellicoe expresses surprise that the Germans were so cautious, and says: "If this country in the future decides to rely on safety against raids or invasion on the fleet alone, it is essential that we possess a considerably greater margin of superiority over a possible enemy in all classes of vessels than we did in August, 1914."

Panic Is Feared as New States Change Paper Money Value

Bankers Say Jugo-Slavia and Czechs Court Disaster: Papers Want Opening of Industry to Ease Crisis

VIENNA, Feb. 12. (By The Associated Press.)—Bankers here fear a financial panic throughout the former Austro-Hungarian Empire because of the recent efforts of the new republics to discard the old paper kronen of the empire by replacing them so that in effect they become new money. At the present time there are about 36,000,000 kronen (\$7,200,000,000) of this old paper money in circulation, while the new Austrian state has only about 10,000,000,000 kronen (\$2,000,000,000) in circulation.

The question has an international phase, since much of the old money in held in the Ukraine, the Russian provinces, Galicia, Poland and in French, English and Swiss banks. If the money held abroad is not stamped it has no circulating value in any of the new republics.

The bankers say the situation is bound to have great influence on the commercial future of the new republics, which, they say, are pursuing a policy of self-destruction in changing the value of the money now in circulation.

Uneasiness Over Tariffs

There is much uneasiness over the raising of tariff walls within the former empire.

Walter Federn, editor of a labor journal, told the correspondents that the question of credits in the new republic was most important. "As for the debts of the former empire," he said, "the new republics must take their share, and if the Poles, Czechs and others try to disown the debts, so much worse for them and the mercantile balance. If bankruptcy of them, because all will have the same class of currency."

Laws Compel Stamping

The fashion of stamping the old Austro-Hungarian kronen began in Jugo-Slavia. A rubber stamp was used and each city used a different form of stamp. A law was passed that no paper kronen would have a circulation value unless stamped.

The Czechoslovak government then declared that no more kronen should be imported into its territory and also prohibited outside banks from transferring into Czechoslovakia the Austro-Hungarian banknotes, which correspond here to the Bank of England notes in England. The Czechs also began to stamp the notes.

Presumably the Australian republic will also begin to stamp the notes, so as to protect itself against an influx of unstamped notes.

The Czechoslovak government is also reported to be preparing to issue new money in the form of the French franc. Up to this time the Hungarian government has taken no action in the matter.

Professor Coolidge, head of the American Economic Mission to the former empire, is preparing a report to the American delegation to the peace conference on all aspects of the financial situation. Local bankers and business men have been in consultation with him on the subject.

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Allies Again Repulse Russian "Reds" Attack

Rout Bolsheviks From Captured Village and Block-houses

ARCHANGEL, Feb. 11. (By The Associated Press.)—Bolshevik forces have resumed the offensive in the region of Sredmakrenka. For a brief time last night the Bolsheviks occupied several Allied blockhouses after penetrating the town, but they were driven out by a British and Russian counter attack. The fighting continued to-day. Patrol activity continues on the Kadish sector, but the American, British and Russian troops maintain the gains made in the offensive last week. On the Pinea sector, east-southeast of Archangel, Russian partisan forces drove back the Bolshevik yesterday. The French Foreign Legion, which is composed of Russian volunteer troops trained at Archangel by French officers, is now fighting on the Kadish front. The weather continues clear and cold along the entire front. The days are now eight hours of daylight, increasing the length of engagements.

Sir Robert Borden May Be Ambassador to U. S.

Canadian Premier Reported as Successor to Earl Reading

MONTREAL, Feb. 12.—Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier, who is now in Paris in attendance at the peace conference, has been offered the post of British Ambassador to the United States, according to a report in newspaper circles in London received by the Canadian Press here. Inquiry by the Canadian Press at 10 Downing Street, London, the official residence of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, regarding the report, elicited the information that nothing was known there concerning it. An official said:

"We know nothing whatever about it. It does not quite sound probable, but we should not like definitely to deny it. We have heard absolutely nothing."

Sir George Perley, Canadian High Commissioner in London, said he had no information, nor have the officials of the British Colonial Office.

PARIS, Feb. 12. (By The Associated Press.)—Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier, when asked to-day regarding a report from London concerning his name with the British Ambassadorship to the United States, thought a moment and replied with a smile:

"I do not believe I have any observations to make regarding the report."

While no official announcement has been made of the refusal of the British Ambassadorship in Washington by Lord Robert Cecil, to whom it had been offered, it is known that Lord Robert is not inclined to accept the post for personal reasons.

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